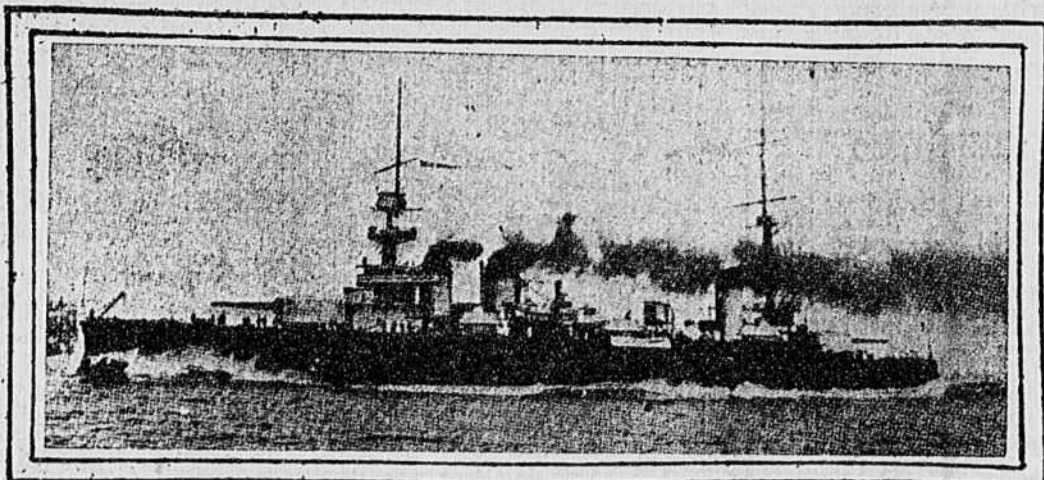


EXPLOSION WRECKS FRENCH BATTLESHIP AND LIVES OF 400 MEN ARE BLOTTED OUT

Liberte, the Pride of
France's Navy, Is
Totally Destroyed.

VESSEL NOW BUT
TWISTED MASS

Frightful Scenes Enacted Before
Eyes of People of Toulon—Sea-
men in Rescuing Boats
Sunk by Debris or Sucked
Down in Mael-
strom.



THE LIBERTE.

Toulon, September 25.—The battle-
ship Liberte was torn apart and totally
destroyed by an explosion of her mag-
azines to-day. Nearly 400 officers and
men were killed. The battleship Re-
publique was badly damaged, and the
battleships Democrite and Verite also
suffered severely from the masses of
twisted iron and armor plate that were
hurled upon their decks.

This is the greatest disaster that has
ever fallen upon the French navy, and
in magnitude is almost without prece-
dent in the annals of the world's
fighting ships. The grief which pros-
trates the fleet and nation is made
more intense by the memory of the
recent review here, a notable display
of France's naval greatness, in which
the doomed ship was one of the finest
figures.

Fire Causes Destruction.
The explosion which wiped out one
of France's newest and most powerful
battleships occurred at 5:55 o'clock in
the morning. It was preceded by an
outbreak of fire, the result of an out-
break of fire. The flames spread rapidly
in spite of all efforts to master them
and reached the magazines before there
was time to flood them. The magazines
exploded with a tremendous violence,
sending death and destruction in every
direction.

While the naval authorities es-
timate the killed at 300, it is feared that
this figure will be exceeded. It will
be necessary to go through the ship's
muster rolls, a task of several days,
before a full list of the victims can be
prepared. A number of men already
have been extricated alive from the
fantastically torn and twisted mass of
wreckage, which once was the Liberte
and the hope is strong that there are
others within the broken hulk who can
be reached.

Exactly from what cause or when
the fire broke out has not been estab-
lished, but it is believed that it had
smoldered for several hours. Of the
vessel's full complement—425—Captain
Jaures, brother of the Socialist leader,
and the second officer in command,
were both ashore on leave, as well as
10 officers and men. The command of
the ship devolved on the senior lieut-
enant, who perished. The fire was
first discovered at 4 A. M. and the bu-
gles immediately sounded the alarm.

The crew rushed to quarters and fought
desperately the spreading flames, but
it soon was evident that the fire had
obtained a firm hold. Signals of dis-
tress were flashed to the other ships
and these dispatched steam pinnaces
and launches at full speed to assist in
the work of extinguishing the flames
and rescuing the men. But their ser-
vices were of little avail.

Ordered to Leap for Lives.
The position was first made im-
possible to flood the magazines. Never-
theless efforts to do so were made, and
finally the commanding officer, realizing
that the ship was doomed, ordered the
bugle to sound the "suave qui peut"
(Let him save himself who can), and
shouted to the men to jump for their
lives.

At 5:55 the first explosion occurred.
It was followed by three others at
one-minute intervals. Then came the
final terrific detonation, which shattered
the windows of the entire city, and
was heard for a radius of many
miles. The Liberte was rent asunder;
her bows were thrown high into the
air, and then the vessel slowly settled
down, and in nineteen minutes nothing
was visible but the top works.

Those still on deck were hurled sky-
ward amid a shower of iron and steel.
The boats of the rescuers were sunk,
and serious damage was done to the
Republique, which lay at anchor close
by. Two of her decks were stove in
and one of the Liberte's armor plates
was hurled against her port side and
demolished the cabin of an absent en-
sign.

For a few minutes after the final ex-
plosion an intense black cloud of
smoke hovered over the harbor. When
it shifted a horrible spectacle met the
eyes of the people of Toulon, who,
awakened by the first explosions, had
hurried to the shore. The twisted up-
per works of the battleship were pro-
truding from a mass of formless
wreckage, among which struggled the
seamens rescuing boats that had
been sunk by the flying debris or sucked
down in the maelstrom.

May Reach 400.
Late to-night the naval authorities
declared that the number of victims
is greater than at first appeared. The
official estimate is now given as be-
tween 350 and 400 dead or missing.

The work of rescue was quickly be-
gun. An ambulance station was es-
tablished in the arsenal and Admiral
Marin-Dasse, maritime prefect, went
out to the wreck and superintended
the work of extricating those impris-
oned in the shattered steel. The first
body recovered was that of an officer,
who was hauled from under a
awning with a boathook. Up to
this evening forty bodies have been
taken out and ninety-four injured have
been transferred to the hospital.

Electric shears, to cut through the
plates of the Liberte, and a powerful
floating crane to lift the masses of
steel, were used in conjunction with
a crew of divers who are at work ex-
ploring the interior of the hull. This
afternoon the Liberte appeared as if
her bows had doubled over onto the
stern. Men buried in that part of the
(Continued on Second Page.)

ITALIANS DEMAND TAKING OF TRIPOLI

Only Discordant Note Comes
From Section of
Socialists.

PEOPLE RALLY TO COLORS

Troops Being Mobilized, and
Country Is Prepared for
War.

Chiaso, Switzerland, September 25.—

According to the latest advices re-
ceived here, all of Italy, except a sec-
tion of Socialists, demands the speedy
occupation of Tripoli. The Socialists
argue that Italy is not sufficiently pre-
pared to stand the heavy expenses re-
quired to enter colonial competition.

Meantime the Italian government is
taking advantage of the present oppor-
tunity to experiment in the partial
mobilization of troops. The entire
fleet is ready for war, including the
smallest and the oldest ships. The coast
fortifications have been strengthened,
and sixty warships have been chartered
for the transport of 35,000 soldiers
war materiel, war planes and dirigibles
and Red Cross workers. The contin-
gent of soldiers kept in service after
their time had expired, with the re-
served called up, brings the standing
army to 80,000 above normal. The
troops intended for Tripoli are centered
chiefly in the Naples, Sicily and Tan-
tano barracks.

The expeditionary force, in addition
to the infantry, includes four batteries
of mountain artillery.
The position was first made im-
possible to flood the magazines. Never-
theless efforts to do so were made, and
finally the commanding officer, realizing
that the ship was doomed, ordered the
bugle to sound the "suave qui peut"
(Let him save himself who can), and
shouted to the men to jump for their
lives.

SMUGGLERS CAUGHT

They Used Rubber Stocking and Much
Red-Pocketed Petticoat.

New York, September 25.—A rubber
stocking and a petticoat with twenty-
five pockets in it are the means by
which Rudolph Newman, a Chicago
jeweler, and his wife are alleged to
have tried to smuggle diamonds and
other precious stones and jewelry into
the United States. The couple ar-
rived on the steamship New Ameri-
can, of the Holland-American line, ac-
companied by two small children.
Newman, when arraigned before United
States Commissioner Russ, furnished
\$2,000 bail, while Mrs. Newman was
granted her own recognizance on ac-
count of her two children, who need-
ed her care.

There has not, according to the cus-
toms authorities, been such a flagrant
case of alleged smuggling reported at
the custom house in months past, or,
by far, since the rigid system adopted
by Collector Loch went into effect. In
the rubber stocking, which Newman
wore tied about the lower portion of
his body, the customs officials say they
found a quantity of uncut diamonds,
valued at about \$1,500, and in the
pockets of his wife's petticoat num-
bers of small jewels and other stones,
said to be worth about \$5,000. All the
jewels were seized.

Had it not been for the fact that
Newman was under suspicion because
of his frequent trips to Europe, the
smuggling probably would have remained
undetected, the officials said, so art-
fully were they concealed.

EXCITEMENT IS FATAL

Wealthy Citizen Falls Dead After an
Altercation.

Beattyville, Ky., September 25.—
Louis Recener, a wealthy citizen of
Booneville, Ky., dropped dead here to-
day after a violent altercation with a
man who accused Recener's children of
throwing stones at his home. Rec-
ener denied the charge vehemently
and grappled with the man. When
separated, Recener was taken to the
hospital, and died there. Recener had
just finished his duties as a jury-
man on a jury which sentenced the
defendant in a murder case to
twenty-one years in the penitentiary.

ELECTION DATE FIXED

Mexico Will Vote for President On Oc-
tober 1.

Mexico City, Mex., September 25.—
Mexico's presidential election will be
held on October 1, the date fixed by
official decree. Petitions for postpone-
ment were rejected to-night both by
the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.
In both houses the majority
against delaying the election was
large, that in the chamber being 140.

CARE AND CAUTION BEING EXERCISED

Wickersham Proposes No Indis-
criminate Attack Against All
Prosperous Concerns.

HE ISSUES STATEMENT

Refuses to Talk of Possible
Prosecution of United States
Steel Corporation.

New York, September 25.—Attorney-
General Wickersham to-night in re-
sponse to many inquiries regarding the
possible prosecution of the United
States Steel Corporation, made a state-
ment, which in part is as follows:

"It has been the consistent policy of
the department not to state in ad-
vance of actual proceedings that ac-
tion against any particular party was
in contemplation. There are many
reasons why this is the proper position
to maintain. In the first place, until
investigation is complete it is not
known whether a case of violation of
law exists, and, in the second place,
the character of the proceedings can-
not be determined until then, and if
the facts shall require criminal pro-
ceedings to be resorted to, ordinary
prudence would demand that publicity
be not given to that fact until indict-
ments are found."

"Personally, I should much prefer
that business interests should them-
selves so readjust their organizations
as to remove all possible criticism
concerning their legality, than that the
Department of Justice should have to
conduct its proceedings to compel
such readjustment."

"It cannot be too positively stated
that the department is not inaugurating
a campaign against business in-
terests of the country or an indis-
criminate attack on all large prosper-
ous concerns. On the contrary, the
care and caution with which the law
officers of the government are pro-
ceeding to the examination of each
case should be a guarantee to the
country that the department is propos-
ing to enforce the law with care not
to unnecessarily injure any interests."

CONFERENCE CONCLUDED

New York, September 25.—At the
conclusion of the conference on the
reorganization of the American To-
bacco Company to-day, Attorney-Gen-
eral Wickersham said that he could
not see how the petition setting forth
the proposed plan for reorganiza-
tion would be filed with the United
States Circuit Court, but that he did
not think any further conferences
would be necessary. Public hearings
will be held as soon as the petition
from the tobacco company is re-
ceived.

J. P. Richardson & Co., a North
Carolina subsidiary of the American
Tobacco Company, which began ul-
terior separation from the company some
time before the recent Supreme Court
decision was handed down, will file a
petition before October 2, it was an-
nounced, for complete segregation
from the parent company in con-
junction with the final dissolution plan.

BODIES ARE REINTERRED

Remains of Naval Officers Not Brought
to United States.

Washington, D. C., September 25.—
Passage of time has eliminated all
trace of any relatives of five American
naval officers and sailors who died
years ago from yellow fever in the
harbor of Panama. The men were
Commander Leonard Paulding, com-
manding the United States ship Wat-
terec; Lieutenant Joseph W. Harris,
of the Lancaster; Apothecary George
Hale, of the Tuscarora; Marine The-
odore Collins and Coal Passer Andrew Blaz-
kowski, of the Philadelphia. Their
bodies were recovered from the island
of Flamenco, or Dead Man's
Island, in the Bay of Panama, and
it was thought that they might be trans-
ferred for burial to the United States.
Under the circumstances, however, they
have been reinterred in the new gov-
ernment cemetery at Ancon, where the
graves will be permanently cared for
by the United States government.

MRS. LAURA J. ARNOLD DEAD

Only Sister of the Late General Stone-
wall Jackson Passes Away.

Buckhannon, W. Va., September 25.—
Mrs. Laura J. Arnold, the only sister
of the late General "Stonewall" Jack-
son, died yesterday at the City Hos-
pital here. Mrs. Arnold was eighty-
five years old, and was active until
within a few weeks of her death. She
was born in Clarksburg, Va., now West
Virginia, in 1826, and was married to
1873 to the late Jonathan Arnold, of
Beverly, Randolph county.

EXPECT TO MAKE TIE-UP COMPLETE

Employees of Illinois Central
Leave Their Desks and
Tools.

CLERKS HAVE QUIT WORK

Walkout Believed to Be Initia-
tory Movement of Organ-
ized Labor.

Memphis, Tenn., September 25.—If an
order issued late to-day by J. J. Cor-
rigan, president of the clerks' union of
the Illinois Central Railroad, is ob-
eyed, the members of that organiza-
tion south of the Ohio River will be
on strike to-morrow morning. In
Memphis not only the clerks, but prac-
tically every member of the employees'
federation in the local freight sheds
and shops of the Illinois Central and
Yazoo and Mississippi Valley roads left
their desks and tools. The walkout
of the shopmen at Memphis is initia-
tory to a general movement of or-
ganized labor on the Illinois Central
and its subsidiary lines. It is believed
that Corrigan, who has established tem-
porary headquarters in Memphis, ex-
plains the walkout of the clerks as a
direct result of the inability of the
union officials to effect an agreement
with the railroad.

Representatives of the striking em-
ployees assert that the tie-up will be
complete. S. S. Norris, superintendent
of the Illinois Central, declares that
by to-morrow the railroad will be in a
position to cope with the situation.
Disputes from union officials on the
lines south of Memphis state that the
order to strike was obeyed by the
clerks almost to a man. At Jackson,
Miss., seventy-eight men are reported
to have quit work; at Vicksburg thirty
went out; at Natchez eight. McComb
City, Yazoo City, Greenwood,
Clarksdale and Greenville, Miss., are
other points where more than 90 per
cent of the men are said to have
struck. At New Orleans 300 are out.
Except at Memphis the strike did
not extend to the shopmen to-day.

BRIDE-ELECT ARRIVES

Miss Hopwood in Uniontown for Mar-
riage to Gates.

Uniontown, Pa., September 25.—Miss
Florence Hopwood, of Minneapolis,
whose marriage to Charles G. Gates,
son of the late John W. Gates, will
take place here Wednesday evening,
arrived in Uniontown to-day accom-
panied by her parents, Mr. and Mrs.
F. T. Hopwood, and her brothers,
R. G. and Warren Hopwood. They are
guests of Robert F. Hopwood, at whose
residence the ceremony will be per-
formed.

STORROW GIVES BAIL

Indicted Stockholder in Shoe Machinery
Company at Liberty.

Boston, Mass., September 25.—James
Storrow, a heavy stockholder in the
United Shoe Machinery Company and
a former director, who was indicted
with five other officials by the Federal
grand jury last week, furnished \$10,000
bail in the United States Circuit Court
to-day. As in the case of the three
other men who were in court last week,
Mr. Storrow was not asked to plead to
the indictments, charging a violation
of the antitrust law.

STOLYPIN'S SLAYER HANGED

Hogroff Refuses to Talk to Rabbi in
Presence of Officials.

Kiev, September 25.—Dmitry Hog-
roff, the assassin of Premier Stolypin,
who was condemned to death by
court-martial, was hanged to-day.
Before his execution the young man
asked that he might see a rabbi, but
refused this consolation when inform-
ed that the interview must be in the
presence of the officials.

MANY NEW CHURCHES

Five Thousand Have Sprung Up From
Sunday Schools.

Akron, O., September 25.—Reports
were submitted to to-day's conference
of missionaries of the Central District,
American Sunday School Union, show-
ing that 5,000 churches have sprung up
from schools established by the union.
Great progress was reported in the
organization of Pennsylvania mining
districts and Michigan lumber camps.
The convention closes to-morrow.

TAFT GOES TO BED TIRED, BUT HAPPY

Pleased With Warmth
of Reception Given by
Progressive Kansans.

SPENDS ANOTHER
STRENUOUS DAY

Crowds Largest That Have
Greeted him in His Travels,
and He Makes Even Dozen
Speeches—Talks Tariff,
Marriage and Divorce
and Conservation.

Kansas City, Mo., September 25.—
President Taft arrived in Kansas City
to-night to address the National Con-
servative Congress. He had spent a
busy day in Southeastern Kansas, mak-
ing addresses at eleven of the prosper-
ous towns that dot that section of the
State. The President was tired but
happy over the warmth of the recep-
tion that the progressive Kansans had
given him.

The crowds were the largest the
President has faced during any of his
travels. Mr. Taft confined himself
largely to the vetoes of the woolen,
free list and cotton tariff bills. He
gave his hearers to understand that
he was ready to reduce the tariff
to sign any bill reducing the tariff
if the measures were founded upon the
report of the tariff board. This board,
the President said, would be ready to
report on the woolen schedule the first
of December.

Believes Duties Too Much.
"I believe the present woolen duties
are too high," he exclaimed with im-
placable, "and just as soon as I get
adequate information I shall recommend
their reduction."

Mr. Taft began the day at Coffey-
ville, and spoke at Independence,
Cherryvale, Chanute, Humboldt, Iola,
Garrettsville, Edgerton and Olathe.
Aside from his official speeches, the
President spoke briefly on marriage
and divorce, on the prosperity of the
people of Kansas and on the trusts
Senator Curtis, Representative Camp-
bell and former Representative Charles
H. Smith were with him throughout
the day.

Discussing the necessity of uniform
laws governing marriage and divorce
the President said:
"It is very awkward, to say the
least, that a man who is married on
one side of a State line may not be
married on the other. The increase
of divorces in this country is a re-
flection on the laws and their loose
administration. We ought not to per-
mit the marriage tie to be dissolved
at will."

"I say we ought not to keep
unhappy people together. Who brought
them together? We did not. If they
got together under a contract, why
shouldn't they be bound to the con-
tract, unless one or the other does
something which in the eyes of all
is a breach of the contract to permit or
require at least a separation, not divorce."

"The trouble is not that in an in-
dividual case demoralization follows
because they are separated, but the
trouble is more when a man or woman
feels that it is more a question
of honor than of conscience. I have
lived with her husband or her wife
with her husband or her wife, and
when they conduct themselves in such
a way very frequently as necessarily
to lead to a breach."

Should Be Made Difficult.
"It is the ability to and the prospe-
ct of getting a divorce that demoralizes.
We ought to have a general uniform
law on that subject that stiffens up
and makes sacred the marriage tie. I
agree that it is not possible in this
country to make marriage indissoluble,
but it is possible to make divorce dif-
ficult so that it cannot be obtained by
collusion and only while one party or
the other shall have done something
that all men regard as necessarily af-
fecting the obligation of the marriage
tie."

URGES CONSERVATION

Kansas City, September 25.—The ad-
dress of President Taft featured the
third annual Conservation Congress in
Convention Hall here.

The President's speech was statisti-
cal in its nature and called attention
to the urgent need of conserving the
natural resources of the country. He
predicted that the "back to the land"
movement would be larger in the
next ten years. Improvement of
agricultural education was urged
as a solution of the problem of in-
creasing the food supply.

While the soil is being stripped of its
fertility under present farming meth-
ods, he said, the President said, the
time ever will come when the United
States will be unable to feed its own
people.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

The conservation movement is
making rapid progress in this country
was made apparent when representa-
tives of a dozen States made verbal
reports at the opening session of the
congress to-day. Every delegate who
spoke brought a report of activity in
his section, and assured the conven-
tion that the campaign for conserva-
tion had just begun. The audience to-
day heard of steps that were being
taken to conserve everything from
land to children. Even the shrimp was
not forgotten in the Louisiana rep-
resentative's report, and the Maryland
delegate added an encouraging word
when he said the terrapin was being
cared for in his State.

JUDGE B. B. LINDSEY, OF DENVER,

pleaded for better conditions for the
child, and deplored the movement for
boys and girls from the farms towards
the city. Other speakers were Henry
Wallace, president of the congress;
Governor Hadley and J. B. White, a
member of the executive board.

DR. JAMES A. PETTIT SHOT AND KILLED BY BEN HUBARD



DR. JAMES A. PETTIT.

AMATEUR FLIER FALLS TO DEATH

Dr. J. C. Clark Is Killed While
Making Trial Flight at
Aviation Meet.

CRUSHED BY AEROPLANE

Five of the Leading Birdmen
Withdraw From Remain-
ing Contests.

Nassau Boulevard, L. I., September
25.—The international aviation meet
was marred to-day by the tragic fall
of Dr. J. C. Clark, of New York, an
amateur, who was to try for his license
to-morrow. He fell 260 feet in his
Queen Bleriot monoplane, sustaining
such injuries that he died at 7:50 to-
night in the Nassau Hospital.

Dr. Clark had not intended to fly to-
day in his machine, which is numbered
13. This morning, however, after ig-
natz Zmlonok, the Russian aviator,
had down to Mineola and back in Dr.
Clark's machine, the wheels were
smashed by a bad landing, and the
doctor was so concerned over the ac-
cident that after repairs had been made
he took the flier up in order to test it.
He had flown only 500 yards, rising
rapidly, when he seemed to lose con-
trol, and was dashed to the earth. As
the aeroplane crashed on the ground
it turned over, crushing the amateur
aviator under it and crushing him.

An examination at the hospital dis-
closed a fracture of the skull, com-
pound fractures of both arms, a dis-
location of the hip, and numerous in-
ternal injuries.

Withdraw From Meet.
Eugene Ely, George W. Beatty,
Harry Atwood, Bud Mars and J. A. D.
McCurdy to-day decided to discon-
tinue their flights. Ely and McCurdy ex-
pressed dissatisfaction with the rules,
and the three others stated that
there was not enough money in the
meet for them.

In the speed contest for monoplanes
to-day Grahame-White won the prize
of \$500, flying ten miles at an average
speed of sixty-one and one-half miles
per hour. Matilda Moissant went up
1,414 feet.

In the bomb-dropping event, Beatty's
passenger, Genevieve O'Hagan, dropped
the missile five feet and nine inches
from the bull's eye, winning the event.

To-morrow Postmaster General
Hitchcock is to fly with Grahame-
White to Mineola, carrying several
sacks of United States mail in order
to test for himself the possibility of
aerial mail transportation.

WALSH MAY GET PAROLE

Federal Board Is Now Sitting at Leav-
enworth Prison.

Leavenworth, Kan., September 25.—
R. V. La Dow, chairman of the Board
of Parole at the Federal prison, has
arrived from Atlanta, Ga., and is hold-
ing sessions of the board relative to
the expected pardoning of John R.
Walsh, the former banker and rail-
road builder of Chicago, and others.
It has been reported that the chair-
man would bring a parole paper al-
ready approved and signed by Atto-
ney-General Wickersham for Walsh,
but La Dow denied this and insisted
that Walsh would have to take his
parole the same as the other prisoners.
He announced that applicants for pa-
role would be called before the board,
commencing with the lowest number on
the list, and that they would follow
in numerical order.

As there are about fifty applications
ahead of that of Walsh, the banker
and it was said, until all these are
disposed of before he can appear to
make his plea. It is thought the board
will be ready to take up Walsh's case
Tuesday, and it is generally believed
action in his case will be favorable.

SHIP RAMS A WHALE

Remarkable Incident Attends Voyage
of French Liner Rochambeau.

New York, September 25.—When off
Nantucket Sunday and running
through fog, the new French line
steamship Rochambeau, bound from
Havre for this port for the first time,
collided with some object which seemed
to partly impede the headway of the
vessel. The engines were stopped and
it was discovered that the ship had
rammed a giant whale. The steel
prow had sunk deep in the whale's
almost cut the leviathan in two. The
water was crimsoned all about the
ship. The carcass of the whale float-
ed for a moment and then sank from
view.

The Rochambeau reached here to-
day.

Slayer Indicted by Grand
Jury Shortly After
Murder.

LATER REMOVED TO LYNCHBURG

Will Be Kept There Until Oc-
tober 6, Date Named for Trial.
Heavily Armed Officers
Guard Prisoner While He
Is in Jail at Lov-
ington.

Vowed in Morning He Would Kill Pettit

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Lynchburg, Va., September 25.—
Ben Hubbard, who shot and killed
Dr. James A. Pettit at Lov-
ington to-day, was brought here
at 10 o'clock to-night by two
deputies and lodged in jail for safe-